

Author of Bill to Help Clean Barnegat Bay Applauds Christie Administration's Decision to Make Barnegat Bay's Health a Priority

Toms River, NJ - Congressman John Adler, who recently drafted legislation to help clean and protect Barnegat Bay, today pledged to work with Governor Chris Christie and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bob Martin on a long-term plan to restore Barnegat Bay's health. Recently, DEP Commissioner Martin unveiled his Department's top priorities. Among the agency's chief goals was a long-term plan to restore and protect the ecological health of Barnegat Bay.

"I am encouraged by Governor Christie's decision to make Barnegat Bay's health a priority," said Congressman John Adler. "Our economy cannot sustain the continued deterioration of Barnegat Bay. It will take many common-sense solutions to solve the Bay's many ecological problems. I pledge to work in a bipartisan way with our Governor and others interested in a long-term plan for Barnegat Bay's health."

Barnegat Bay provides more than \$3.3 billion in economic benefits annually to New Jersey. The Bay is critical to boaters, swimmers, fishermen, hunters, tourists, nature enthusiasts, tourism-based businesses and coastal communities. The Congressman tried to pull from all of these groups, as well as environmentalists and researchers interested in the Bay's health, to form a Barnegat Bay Roundtable.

The Congressman's roundtable discovered that inefficient stormwater basins and a lack of a database to monitor a basin's impact on bay water quality are major obstacles to Barnegat Bay's health. Adler's recently introduced legislation creates a competitive grant program for the 28 National Estuary programs to monitor, assess, research and restore estuaries with inefficient stormwater basins.

Effective stormwater basins can help Barnegat Bay with its major stormwater runoff problem. Stormwater runoff contains pollutants from fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil and other pollutants typically associated with residential and commercial development. The Congressman's legislation to bolster stormwater basin systems will help treat stormwater runoff and ensure that much of it will not enter the Bay.